

REMARKS

Claims 9-13 and 16-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9-10 and 16 are amended, claims 18-22 are added, and claims 1-8 and 14-15 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuing applications. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figs. 26-28 and 40-42. Independent claim 18 recites features similar to independent claim 16. No new matter is added.

I. The Claims Are Distinct

The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly not being supported. The cited features find support, for example, in the sections cited by the July 5, 2007 Election of Species Requirement at page 7, lines 12-18. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

The Office Action (1) rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 11-154068 to Ikegam¹; and (2) rejects claims 9-11, 13 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0196452 to Komiya. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Regarding independent claim 9, the applied references fail to disclose (1) "a receiving unit that receives data of the RIP processing"; (2) "a storing unit that stores a first relationship between a condition of the RIP processing and an accounting amount for the condition of the RIP processing"; and (3) "a first accounting amount calculation unit that calculates a first

¹ Munemitsu, also used by the Office Action to refer to this reference, appears to be the first name of the inventor.

accounting amount by using the data of the RIP processing received by the receiving unit and the first relationship" (emphasis added).

Regarding independent claim 16, Komiya fails to disclose (1) "receiving data of the RIP processing"; (2) "storing a first relationship between a condition of the RIP processing and an accounting amount for the condition of the RIP processing"; and (3) "calculating a first accounting amount by using the data of the received RIP processing" (emphasis added).

Ikegami discloses print servers 7-9 and accounting server 10 (drawing 1; Abstract; paragraph [0021]). Print servers 7-9 include printing job output section 22 that sends a print job to a printer and accounting consumption information transmitting section 23 that transmits accounting information generated by the print job to the accounting server 10 (paragraph [0021]). The accounting server 10 includes an accounting consumption information receive section 31 that receives the accounting information. The accounting information is accumulated in an accounting consumption information file 32 (paragraph [0022]).

Komiya discloses a printing service system (paragraph [0037]) including an "output device group 104" comprising POD servers 110 and 115 and printers 112 and 114 (paragraph [0039]). An account table 306-5 stores information on printing charges (Fig. 7; paragraph [0054]). The printing charges are calculated by POD server 110 based on the account table 306-5 (paragraph [0054]).

Ikegami and Komiya fail to disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in independent claims 9 and 16. Neither reference discloses RIP processing and neither reference discloses a system in which a relationship associates a condition of RIP processing to an accounting amount.

New claim 18 recites features similar to independent claim 16, and thus is patentable over the applied references for the same reasons as claim 16 is patentable.

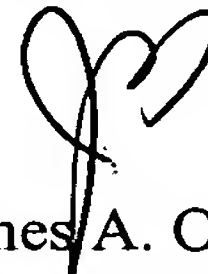
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jonathan H. Backenstose
Registration No. 47,399

JAO:JHB/mab

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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